

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00304 061158Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 FEA-02

NEA-10 CU-04 EB-11 SCI-06 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 060950Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7668

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN PARTY SEEKS TO MAINTAIN IDEOLOGICAL PURITY

REF: (A) SOFIA 0034 (B) SOFIA'S A-23, MARCH 4, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: BEGINNING WITH TELLALOV SPEECH IN PRAGUE (REF A) AND, MORE RECENTLY, IN LILOV SPEECH TO BCP PLENUM ON FEBRUARY 7 (REF B) PARTY LEADERS HAVE STRESSED THAT COOPERATION WITH WEST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DOES NOT MEAN A WEAKENING OF PARTY CONTROL AT HOME. ON CONTRARY, THEY HAVE PAINTED DANGERS INHERENT IN DETENTE FROM BOTH "RIGHT AND LEFT WING" TO THOSE WHO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT "IN IDEOLOGY THERE IS NOT, NOR CAN EVER BE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE." KEY QUESTION, HOWEVER, IS HOW THESE EXHORTATIONS WILL BE INTERPRETED BY LOWER LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING POLICY. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00304 061158Z

THERE ARE SOME SMALL SIGNS THAT BULGARS ARE TIGHTENING

UP AT HOME, PERHAPS ONLY IN PRELUDE TO FORTHCOMING PARTY CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS BULGARIAN MEDIA HAS TAKEN A SLIGHTLY HARSHER TONE TOWARDS WEST IN GENERAL AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, TOWARD US. PARTLY A RESULT OF NEED TO DEFEND SOLZHENITSYN AFFAIR, MEDIA HAS STRUCK OUT AT "EXCESSES IN WEST." THIS HAS INCLUDED SERIES OF ARTICLES FOCUSING ON DRUG ADDICTION IN WEST, EVILS OF PORNOGRAPHY, SEX AND SADISM AND OTHER ILLS AFFLICTING CAPITALIST SOCIETIES. ENERGY CRISES, TOO, HAS PROVIDED EASY TARGET FOR MEDIA WHICH DOES NOT FAIL TO TAKE NOTE OF ANY ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS THAT SCORE.

3. TYPICAL OF THIS TACTIC IS SERIES OF RADIO PROGRAMS, OBVIOUSLY SPONSORED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, CONSISTING OF INTERVIEWS (OFTEN IN PRISON) WITH PERSONS WHO ESCAPED BULGARIA ONLY TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS. RECENT INTERVIEW WITH ONE DISTRESSED SOUL DESCRIBED "THE NEAR STARVATION OF BLACKS IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK" AND ENDED WITH USUAL CALL ON LISTENERS TO PROFIT FROM MISTAKES OF OTHERS.

4. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT MEDIA ATTACKS ON US HAVE RETURNED TO ANYTHING LIKE THE LEVELS OF 12 OR EVEN 8 MONTHS AGO. NONETHELESS, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ARTICLES WHICH CARRY BARELY CONCEALED NEEDLE AGAINST US POLICIES. VIETNAM, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND DIFFERENCES WITHIN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY ARE PRIMARY TOPICS, BUT COMMENTARIES ON US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST ARE CHARACTERIZED BY LACK OF BALANCE, RATHER THAN OUTRIGHT ATTACK ON US ACTIONS.

5. IN CULTURAL FIELD WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ONE BULGAR THAT APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL ABROAD ARE BEING STUDIED WITH GREATER CARE AS RESULT OF LILOV'S CALL TO MOBILIZE BULGARIANS TRAVELLING ABROAD AS SALESMEN FOR SOCIALISM. ANOTHER BULGARIAN ACQUAINTANCE IN ART FIELD TOLD EMBOFF THAT CONTACT WOULD HAVE TO BE STOPPED UNTIL HE KNEW "WHICH WAY WIND WAS BLOWING", AND TEENAGE SON YET ANOTHER EMBASSY CONTACT SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO HALT APPARENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SOFIA 00304 061158Z

CRATIVE TRADE IN WESTERN RECORDS. ON THE OTHER HAND SOME BULGARIANS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, HAVE DOWNGRADED IMPORTANCE OF BCP PLENUM BY NOTING THAT SIMILAR CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING IDEOLOGICAL FRONT HAVE BEEN GIVEN WITH SOME REGULARITY IN PAST.

6. MORE SIGNIFICANT PERHAPS, WAS RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND DIRECTOR OF PHILOSOPHY INSTITUTE AT

PAISIY HILENDARSKI UNIVERSITY PLOVDIV. PROFESSOR, WHO IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE IDEOLOGICAL WATCHDOG ON BCP CITY COMMITTEE, TOOK OCCASION OF CHANCE MEETING TO UPBraid "WESTERN EFFORTS TO WEAKEN SOCIALIST LINKS." REFERRING TO BCP PLENUM ON IDEOLOGY, BULGARIAN SAID THAT "WHATEVER MASK CAPITALISM WEARS, ITS PURPOSES ARE EASILY RECOGNIZED." HE THEN WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EVEN ECONOMIC EXCHANGES WERE SIMPLY A NEW TACTIC IN WESTERN EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE SOCIALISM IN BULGARIA. ALTHOUGH ONE MAN'S VIEW CAN BE DISCARDED AS ANACHRONISTIC, THIS SPEAKER, AT LEAST, FELT OBVIOUS NEED TO LECTURE IN PRESENCE OF OTHER BULGARIANS.

7. WHAT WE SUSPECT IS TAKING PLACE IS A KIND OF POLICY VACUUM IN WHICH EACH APPARATCHIK IS TAKING CARE TO PROTECT HIS FLANKS UNTIL MORE EXACT GUIDELINES ARE HANDED DOWN FROM ON HIGH. IN SPEECH TO BCP PLENUM LILIV MADE NO BONES ABOUT WEAKNESS WITHIN PARTY RANKS AND THOSE "EVEN IN HIGH POSITIONS", WHO HAD MADE ERRORS IN THEIR INTERPRETATION ON WHAT DETENTE AND COOPERATION IS ALL ABOUT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST POLICY FOR THOSE AT THE LOWER RANKS IS PROBABLY TO APPEAR MORE CATHOLIC THAN THE POPE, AT LEAST UNTIL THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS ARE SORTED OUT PERHAPS AT THE UPCOMING PARTY CONFERENCE.
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